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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1947



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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN.

Mayor:

ALDERMAN FRANCIS LIONEL ROSE, J.P., C.C.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN H. PARKES, J.P., C.A.

Aldermen:

HERBERT JOHN COX, J.P., WALTER HODGETTS,
HERBERT PARKES, J.P., C.C.,
FRANCIS LIONEL ROSE, J.P., C.C., THOMAS SMITH.

Councillors:

CENTRAL WARD:

Councillor Thomas Craddock, Councillor Alfred George Rudge,
Councillor Daniel Wellings.

NORTH WARD:

Councillor Alfred Parkes, Councillor John William Parkes,
Councillor William Parkes.

SOUTH WARD:

Councillor John Henry Green, Councillor Leonard Harper,
Councillor George Albert Southall.

EAST WARD:

Councillor William Edward Vernon Hewin Guest,
Councillor Albert Spring, Councillor Raymond Wright.

WEST WARD:

Councillor Karl Kirton, Councillor John James Shakespeare,
Councillor Clifford Willetts.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. L. CORLETT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

A. ARCHER, M.S.I.A. (a, b, c).

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:

H. HERBERT, M.S.I.A. (a, b, c). (From September, 1947).

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector:

L. J. HILL, M.R.San.I. (a, b, c). (Until June, 1947).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

E. W. BURROWS, M.S.I.A. (a, b).

MRS. M. I. PENNINGTON, M.S.I.A. (a, b).

G. H. STONE, M.S.I.A. (a, b). (Until April, 1947).

Chief Clerk:

F. D. HIPKISS. (Until June, 1947).

G. W. J. LEWIS. (From September, 1947).

Clerk to the Medical Officer:

MISS J. PRICE.

Clerks:

MRS. H. DEELEY.

A. R. HUMPHRIES. (Until November, 1947).

MISS V. COOK. (From October, 1947).

NOTES.

- (a) Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate.
- (b) Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate.
- (c) Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.

Council House,
Halesowen.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Halesowen.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the health of the Borough of Halesowen for the year 1947.

The birth rate of 18.7 is below that of England and Wales which is 20.5, but it shows a rise from 16.47 for the previous year. There were 390 deaths, which gave a death rate of 10.0 compared with 12.0 for England and Wales. Births exceeded deaths by 340.

The number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis showed a slight increase, 32 compared with 27 for last year. Measles notifications showed a marked increase, 308 compared to the very low incidence of 22 for the previous year. This was not unexpected because 16 of these 22 notifications in 1946 were for December, so that it seemed likely that measles would increase in incidence during the early part of 1947. The notification rate of 7.90 was, however, lower than for England and Wales which was 9.41. There were only 6 cases of diphtheria during the year.

I am sure that the following statistics taken from previous Annual Reports for Halesowen will interest you.

	1897.	1913.	1938.	1947.
Estimated Population	21,963	26,518	35,970	38,980
Birth Rate	44.6	29.6	17.09	20.5
Infant Mortality Rate	134	116	52.29	31.5
Death Rate	14.3	13.2	10.71	10.0

In 1897 there were 825 births, and 111 deaths in children under one year of age. The total deaths for that year amounted to 316 so that over one third of the deaths occurred in children under one year of age. There were only 61 deaths in people over 65 years of age. In 1913, 87 people in this age group died, whilst in 1947 out of a total of 390 deaths, 226 were of people aged 65 and over. Penicillin and M and B will undoubtedly prolong many lives, so that one of the problems that will have to be solved is how to keep the aged happy and useful members of the community.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and help, and to express my appreciation to Mr. Archer and his staff, and to Miss Price, for their help and willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

The area of the district is	5,247 acres.
Population, Census 1931	31,058.
Population, mid-1947	38,980.
Rateable value, September, 1947	£161,721.
The sum represented by a penny rate	£581/3/0.

The district is bounded on the north by the Borough of Rowley Regis, on the east partly by the Borough of Oldbury and partly by the City and County Borough of Birmingham, on the South by the Rural District of Bromsgrove, and on the west partly by the Borough of Stourbridge and partly by the Urban District of Brierley Hill.

It is approximately 7 miles from the Birmingham City Centre, and is easily accessible for industrial purposes to the Black Country, but fortunately, however, forms part of the northern area of the beautiful County of Worcester. It is, therefore, partly industrial, partly residential, and partly agricultural. We are very favourably situated from the point of view of further industrial and housing development. The prevailing wind comes from the rural belt surrounding the Borough.

The number of houses in 1921 was 5,843, in 1939 it was 10,909, and by the end of 1947 was 11,316.

The principle industries are: brickmaking, button manufacture, clothing manufacture, fireclay and terra-cotta, chain and spike making, tube and tube fittings, perambulators, iron casting, odd iron work, coal mining, electrical work, and agriculture.

A large majority of the population work in the Borough in the industries mentioned above.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births:	M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	392	....	317	....	709
Illegitimate	11	....	10	....	21
	<hr/> 403		<hr/> 327		<hr/> 730

(b) Still Births:	M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	11	....	8	....	19
Illegitimate .....	-	....	-	....	-
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	11		8		19
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population18.7.

Birth Rate for England and Wales 20.5.

Below is a table giving the Birth Rate in the Borough for the past ten years.

	Halesowen.	England & Wales.
1938	17.09	15.1
1939	17.05	15.0
1940	15.9	14.6
1941	13.2	14.2
1942	17.56	15.8
1943	19.29	16.5
1944	20.9	17.6
1945	18.44	16.1
1946	16.47	19.1
1947	18.7	20.5

DEATHS.

	M.		F.		Total.
	198	....	192	....	390
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	10.0				
Death Rate for England and Wales	12.0				
Death Rate for 148 towns estimated resident population					
25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	11.9				

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	16	....	7	....	23
Illegitimate .....	-	....	-	....	-
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	16		7		23
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 Live Births 31.5

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales
was per 1,000 Live Births 41.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Causes of Death:	Total Deaths.	Under 1 Month.
Prematurity	4	4
Congenital abnormalities	4	3
Debility from birth	2	2
Asthenia	4	4
Broncho-pneumonia	3	1
Intracranial haemorrhage	3	3
Malnutrition	1	-
Internal haemorrhage	1	1
Asphyxia (Accidental)	1	-
	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 18

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	9	7
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	-
9. Influenza	1	-
10. Measles	1	-
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M)	1	-
Cancer of uterus (F)	-	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	11
15. Cancer of breast	-	8
16. Cancer of all other sites	22	18
17. Diabetes	-	2
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	14	29
19. Heart disease	57	52
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	5	2
21. Bronchitis	18	12
22. Pneumonia	8	9
23. Other respiratory diseases	5	4
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	-
25. Diarrhœa (under two years)	-	-
26. Appendicitis	2	-
27. Other digestive diseases	2	4
28. Nephritis	2	3

	Male.	Female.
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-
31. Premature birth	6	3
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases	7	3
33. Suicide	3	-
34. Road Traffic accidents	6	1
35. Other violent causes	2	2
36. All other causes	18	20
	<hr/> 198	<hr/> 192

Of those who died from Heart Disease, fourteen were due to Coronary Thrombosis. They belong to the following age groups.

	Male.	Female.
40-50	1	-
50-60	3	1
60-70	2	2
70-80	3	2
	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 5

DEATHS FROM CANCER FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

	Male.	Female.
1940	29	27
1941	37	36
1942	42	28
1943	25	27
1944	22	31
1945	36	20
1946	42	23

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

(a) (i) Public Health Officers.

The Staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

(ii) Laboratory Facilities.

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The Council provides two ambulances for taking non-infectious cases to and from hospitals and nursing homes. No charge is made for this service which is very much used by inhabitants. During 1947, 2,468 cases were taken to and from hospitals, the distance travelled by the ambulances being approximately 25,697 miles.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough are the hospitals in the City of Birmingham, the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley. Maternity cases are also taken to the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, Stourbridge, and the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, Stourport.

Two ambulance drivers are employed and the vehicles are maintained and repaired in the Public Health Department garage. Infectious disease cases are conveyed to hospital by one of the two ambulances belonging to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Board.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the district. They have also arranged a " Home Help " service in conjunction with the W.V.S.

(d) Tuberculosis.

The work is carried out by the County Council.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held every Thursday at No. 14, Laurel Lane, Halesowen, at 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Tuberculosis Pavilion at the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green consists of a block containing 19 beds for males.

(e) Infectious Disease.

The cases of infectious disease are admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital, situated at Hayley Green, Halesowen. This hospital is recognised by the General Nursing Council as a Training School for Fever Nurses.

(f) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal sessions are provided by the County Council. There are three centres, namely: Cradley, Halesowen, and Hill and Cakemore. The district is well catered for.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The water supplied to the Borough is a constant supply and satisfactory in quality and quantity except as regards a small area at Hayley Green, Lutley, where the pressure is somewhat low when the demand for water in the area is greatest. It is understood that the Ministry of Health have been informed of these complaints and have the matter under consideration.

The water is drawn from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's Shavers End reservoir system which is supplied from pumping stations at Ashwood, Hinksford, Prestwood and Kinver, all located in the Smestow Valley where water is pumped from the new red sandstone formation. A further supply to this system is obtained from surface water impounded in storage reservoirs near Lichfield.

At all the pumping stations where treatment is carried out, bacteriological samples are taken at frequent intervals both of the raw water and the water pumped to supply. Chemical analyses are performed at monthly intervals on waters from all pumping stations. Within the Borough a sample is taken at approximately monthly intervals and examined bacteriologically, physically and chemically. During 1947, twelve samples were examined and all were free from coliform bacteria. Physically, colour averaged 4 mm on the Burgess scale, and all samples had a normal taste and odour; pH value averaged 6.7.

The average chemical results for the year were:—

	Parts per million.
Alkalinity (CaCO_3)	73
Chlorides (Cl)	31.3
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	2.6
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C}) .....	.12
Temporary Hardness	68
Permanent Hardness	47
Total Hardness	115
Iron (Fe) .....	.06
Manganese (Mn)	Nil
Poisonous Metals	Nil
Zinc	Nil
Free Chlorine	Nil

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvency, but periodic samples are examined for lead.

Contamination of mains following bursts and of service reservoirs following emptying is guarded against by chlorination at site, and newly laid mains are treated before use. The Water Company maintains staff and special apparatus for this purpose, and the mains or reservoirs are not put into use until the water has been examined and found to be satisfactory.

The number of houses in the Borough is 11,316 and of these 11,279 are supplied with mains water. Of this number, 769 houses have taps outside the house, usually in wash house.

The department is indebted to R. A. Robertson, Esq., B.Sc., M.Inst. C.E., Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, for most of the information given here.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is a separate system of sewers in the district, one being for foul wastes and the other for storm water. With the exception of isolated areas such as Illey, most of the dwellings in the Borough are connected to the sewers. The main sewers are owned and maintained by the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board, and the sewage is treated at the Board's Works at Tividale.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND TRANSPORT.

The removal and disposal of refuse, the collection of salvage and the maintenance of Corporation vehicles is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Details of inspection of houses are referred to later in the Report.

Prior to the war, the Council had erected 1,844 houses. Since the war up to the end of 1947, 86 permanent and 86 temporary houses have been erected.

There is a good liaison between the Committees responsible for allocating houses and the Public Health Department, and special priority is given whenever possible to cases where there is tuberculosis in a household and when it is considered that re-housing would be beneficial.

Ten families were allocated new houses in 1947 on these grounds.

A complete housing survey of all the tuberculosis patients has been made by the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details of this work will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

	England & Wales.		Halesowen.
Typhoid	0.01	....	0.00
Paratyphoid	0.01	....	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.37	....	0.79
Whooping Cough	2.22	....	0.46
Diphtheria	0.13	....	0.15
Measles	9.41	....	7.90
Smallpox	0.00	....	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	....	0.02
Pneumonia	0.79	....	0.53
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	....	0.05

SMALLPOX.

No case was reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirty-one cases of scarlet fever were reported during the year. The incidence continues to be low and of a mild type.

For the period 1897-1901, there were 702 cases of scarlet fever with thirty-three deaths; for the period 1943-1947, there were 253 cases with one death.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were only six cases during the year under review. Four children and two adults. The four children affected had been immunised—all recovered.

INCIDENCE AND SEVERITY OF DIPHTHERIA.

Year	Total Cases	Deaths	Mortality Rate	Immunised Children		Percentage of children under 15 years Immunised
				Cases	Deaths	
1936	30	3	10.0	-	-	-
1937	15	3	20.0	-	-	-
1938	12	1	8.33	-	-	-
1939	11	-	-	-	-	-
1940	10	1	10.0	-	-	21.49
1941	37	1	2.7	1	-	57.0
1942	30	1	3.33	5	-	65.9
1943	45	2	4.44	8	-	76.17
1944	40	3	7.5	17	-	76.31
1945	30	1	3.33	18	-	76.25
1946	33	1	3.03	20	-	78.7
1947	6	-	-	4	-	81.4

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Free diphtheria immunisation has been provided by the Borough Council since 1935. The response by the parents is good. An immunisation session is held monthly at Cradley, Halesowen, and Hill and Cakemore, at the following times and place:—

Tenter Street Clinic, Halesowen: 1st Wednesday each month,
2.15 p.m. — 3.30 p.m.

Cradley Infant Welfare Clinic: 2nd Friday each month, 2.15
p.m. — 3.30 p.m.

Hill Top School Clinic, Long Lane, Hill and Cakemore: 3rd
Tuesday each month, 2.15 p.m. — 3.30 p.m.

Boosting doses are also given at these Clinics, and where necessary extra sessions are arranged at the schools.

I wish to acknowledge the help I have always received from Dr. Eileen Bulmer, and the County Nurses, also the Head Teachers and their staffs for their willing co-operation.

The percentages of the child population immunised at 31st December, 1947, were:—

Under 5 years 60.7

5—15 years 91.8

Estimated mid-year population, 1947, being:—

Under 5 years 3,440

5—15 years 5,330

The numbers of children who were treated in 1947, were as follows:—

	Primary Treatment.		Supplementary Treatment.	
	Com- pleted	Injected	Com- pleted	Injected
Under 5 years	533	1,111	4	4
5—15 years	32	88	490	494
	<hr/> 565	<hr/> 1,199	<hr/> 494	<hr/> 498

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

We were very fortunate in that we had only one patient affected and this patient made a perfect recovery as the illness did not proceed to the paralytic stage.

ERYSIPELAS.

One case was reported. No deaths.

MENINGITIS.

Two cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis were notified. Both treated in hospital, recovered.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Only 18 cases notified. There were no deaths.

MEASLES.

There were 308 cases notified with one death.

Sixteen cases were reported in December, 1946, 5 in North Ward, 8 in West Ward, and 3 in South Ward. Measles did not spread in South Ward as the table below will show.

WARDS.

Months.	North.	South.	East.	West.	Central.	Total.
January	25	2	-	20	1	48
February	23	1	29	10	4	67
March	2	3	2	22	3	32
April	6	4	16	36	2	64
May	6	3	1	51	22	83
June	-	2	1	4	4	11
July						
August	-	-	1	2	-	3
Totals	62	15	50	145	36	308

TUBERCULOSIS.

Forty cases were notified during the year; 32 of these were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 8 were non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER AT END OF 1947.

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
80	68	15	22

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1947.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0—5 years	1	1	1	-
5—10 „	1	1	-	-
10—15 „	1	-	-	-
15—20 „	3	2	1	-
20—25 „	-	-	-	2
25—30 „	2	-	-	-
30—35 „	1	2	-	-
35—40 „	1	1	-	-
40—45 „	3	-	-	2
45—50 „	4	1	1	1
50—55 „	3	-	-	-
55—60 „	2	-	-	-
60—65 „	1	-	-	-
65 years and over	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	24	8	3	5

SCABIES.

The decline in the number of cases treated continues. January to June, 1946, there were 68 cases treated, June to December, 1946, the number fell to 24, and the total for 1947 was 37. The pre-war incidence here was almost negligible, so that the incidence is likely to fall even lower than at present.

REPORT OF WORK FOR THE YEAR.

Clinics	No. Cases	No. Families	Total Treatments	Cured	No. still undergoing Treatment
Halesowen	33	17	66	33	-
Hill & Cakemore	4	2	10	4	-
Cradley	-	-	-	-	-
—	—	—	—	—	—
	37	19	76	37	-
—	—	—	—	—	—

I would like to thank Miss Robson, S.R.N., Miss Knowles, and Mrs. Whitehurst for their work at these Scabies Clinics, and also Miss O'Grady, S.R.N., for her interest in following up contacts.

BORNHOLM'S DISEASE. Otherwise known as Epidemic Myalgia.

During the summer Drs. Bland and Newton called my attention to the fact that they had amongst their patients, a number of children who appeared to be suffering from this disease. Drs. Shedden and Hobbs in another part of the Borough had three patients, all children similarly affected. The illness appears to be infectious.

The main symptom was diaphragmatic pain accompanied by a rise of temperature. The patient convalesced in about a week, and there were no sequelae.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65+	Total	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	7	4	10	4	1	1	-	-	1	31	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	6	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	6	4	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-
Pneumonia	2	2	2	-	-	2	1	-	5	1	6	-	21	17
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Measles	11	26	38	50	65	112	5	-	1	-	-	-	308	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Acute Anterior														
Polioomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
								Contracted abroad.						
TOTALS	14	29	48	62	71	132	12	2	9	2	7	1	389	17

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Most of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors in 1947 was devoted to housing matters. A great deal of time was spent in dealing with complaints and remedying urgent nuisances often in connection with houses which have long outlived their useful life. The shortage of housing accommodation has resulted in such property being kept in use much longer than is desirable from a public health aspect. There is in the Borough much house property which is irremediably sub-standard, and, in my opinion, the time is appropriate to carry out, in certain areas, preliminary inspections with a view to clearing the worst sites.

The conditions under which food is prepared, handled or sold, received careful attention, the emphasis being on educational propaganda concerning the basic principles of hygiene.

In the early months of the year the severe weather had a serious effect on the efficiency of the refuse collection service, and added to the existing difficulties of shortage of manpower and the difficulties of maintaining and repairing vehicles. In spite of this, the service functioned reasonably well and in the latter part of the year the salvage returns showed a marked improvement.

Shortage of technical staff prevented sufficient regular attention being paid to some important public health matters, notably atmospheric pollution, pollution of rivers and streams, and the inspection of shops and offices.

In presenting this report on behalf of the staff, both clerical and technical, I wish to record my appreciation of the active interest of the Chairman, Councillor W. H. Guest, and members of the Public Health Committee. I am indebted to Dr. R. L. Corlett, Medical Officer of Health, for help and advice, and to the Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., and other officers of the Council for their co-operation.

A. ARCHER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

September, 1948.

HOUSING.

CONDITION OF PROPERTY.

There is much old property in the Borough which is not only in varying degrees unfit for habitation, but which could not be made reasonably fit however much repairs were carried out. Until more houses are built, much of this property will have to be kept in use and minor repairs carried out to ensure that the houses are at least weatherproof. Whenever persons are rehoused by the Council, opportunity is taken to examine the house occupied, and where it is considered that the house is seriously detrimental to health the necessary steps are taken to consider the making of a Demolition Order.

ALLOCATION OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

During 1947 the Council reviewed the policy of allocating houses, and decided that applications for Council house accommodation be divided so that applicants living in privately owned property be dealt with by the Public Health Department whilst those applicants living in lodgings in existing Council property remain the responsibility of the Housing Manager.

There were in April, 1947, 2,163 applicants on the Council register, and these included all persons living in privately owned property, together with those living in lodgings in Council property. After examining existing records it was decided to re-visit each applicant in the former category, and record certain essential information. The work entailed some 1,500 visits during 1947.

Cards were designed to record the following data:—

1. Name and address of applicant.
2. Date of application and reference number.
3. Details of all occupants in the house.
4. Details and size of all rooms, and where the applicant is a sub-tenant, differentiating between those available for the applicant and the remaining rooms.
5. The extent of overcrowding based on a room standard and on a bedroom standard.
6. General observations.

The difficulty in allocating houses in a situation where there are many more applicants than houses, arises mainly on account of the relative weight which is to be attached to the differing factors to which consideration must be given. Amongst the commoner factors are:—

- (a) Extent of overcrowding—account must be taken of overcrowding in the rooms available to the applicant, and also in some instances in the rest of the house.

- (b) The seriousness of the overcrowding—overcrowding involving opposite sexes, particularly of adolescent age is considered more serious than numerical overcrowding where only one sex is involved.
- (c) Presence of certain types of illness.
- (d) Condition of property.
- (e) Length of application.
- (f) Special factors, e.g., war service, service in mines or in agriculture.

The letting of houses is done by a sub-committee, but the preliminary sorting and submission of the worst cases to the Sub-Committee is carried out so far as applicants in private houses are concerned, by the Public Health Department.

The system is working satisfactorily since it ensures that the factors involved are assessed by officers trained to do so, and helps to preserve uniformity of judgment.

Applicants have an assurance that before each meeting of the House-letting Sub-Committee every case is reviewed by the Department.

The survey has revealed some interesting and useful statistics. Although there were nominally 1,978 applications from persons living in privately owned property on the register on the 30th April, 1948, 438 of these had themselves found other suitable accommodation or because of changed circumstances no longer wished to be considered. 287 applicants were normally residents outside the Borough, and in the present circumstances the Council are not able, save in exceptional cases, to allocate houses to such applicants. In addition there were 436 applications from persons living in Council property, making a total of 1,689 "live" applications from persons living within the Borough.

The statistics were analysed to show the composition of the families involved in each application in an attempt to indicate the numbers and types of houses which will be needed to meet the immediate demand. It is considered in the light of the information already obtained, that the work should be supplemented by a detailed survey of all housing accommodation in the Borough.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS 1920-1939.

There were 13 applications for certificates as to the state of repair of dwelling houses and with one exception, these were granted.

TABLE I.

1.	Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	516
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1030
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	4
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	12
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	512
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	254
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	125
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners	169
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | .... | 7 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | .... | 1 |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- | | | |
|---|------|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | .... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | .... | Nil |

NOTE.—Undertakings not to use dwelling houses for human habitation were accepted in three cases.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—
No detailed figures are available as to the extent of overcrowding.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

A high percentage of the milk sold in the Borough is heat treated. This is due to the existence of a heat treatment plant at the largest dairy and to the proximity of Birmingham from which much of the milk sold locally is obtained. The sale of loose milk from open vessels is gradually but noticeably disappearing as the public become educated to the knowledge of its potential danger. There is still a great deal of understandable confusion in the minds of the public as to the meaning of the terms used to describe milk, e.g., “accredited,” “tuberculin-tested,” “pasteurised,” etc. It is considered that this issue should be simplified so that the implication of any description would be obvious.

Inspectors examining dairies pay careful attention to general methods, and to the cleanliness of equipment, particularly bottles.

A total of 43 samples of milk were sent to the County Bacteriologist for examination and of these 41 were considered satisfactory. One sample of raw milk failed to pass the test for accredited milk and one sample of pasteurised milk failed to pass

the phosphatase test. This latter sample was from a dairy outside the Borough and the facts were reported to the Authority concerned.

There are twenty-eight dairymen with premises in the Borough, and of these, sixteen are producers of milk. The total number of dairymen supplying milk in the Borough is 54.

The following table indicates approximately the types of milk sold:—

Heat treated	....	....	....	....	80%
Raw (not graded)	....	....	....	....	12%
Tuberculin-tested	....	....	....	....	5%
Accredited	....	....	....	....	3%

The term "heat treated" in the table above includes all types of milk which have been pasteurised or sterilised, and whether they are sold as designated milk or not. Some dairymen sell milk known to have been pasteurised, as loose milk or in bottles without designation.

Three samples of raw milk were specially examined for the presence of the tubercle bacillus and all gave negative results.

Of the 47 clean bottles submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination, only one was considered to be unsatisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Apart from the occasional slaughter of pigs, no work was done in the slaughter-houses during the year. All the meat sold in Halesowen is brought in from Birmingham, and the vans in which it is transported are regularly examined as the meat is unloaded.

Regular inspection of food is carried out in shops and markets, and the quality is generally satisfactory. Occasional samples of bone taint in imported meat are encountered, but this is not surprising as it can only be reasonably detected when the meat is cut up.

The list of commodities found to be unfit for human consumption is set out below:—

MEAT.

- 1 pig's carcase and offal (septicaemia)
- 2 pigs' plucks (tuberculosis)
- 1 pig's pluck (pleurisy)
- 1 pig's lungs (pneumonia)
- 5 pigs' heads (tuberculosis)

6 pigs' intestines (tuberculosis)
 1 pig's liver (cirrhosis)
 1 pig's liver (tuberculosis)
 1 pig's head and shoulder (abscesses)
 7 lbs. beast's liver
 466 lbs. beef (bone taint)
 174 lbs. beef (decomposition)
 110 lbs. boiled minced beef

OTHER FOODS.

Various tinned goods	....	....	....	1,199 tins
Bacon	....	....	....	30 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Ham	....	....	....	19 lbs.
Prunes	....	....	....	149 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cheese	....	....	....	24 lbs.
Powdered Starch	....	....	....	84 lbs.
Butter	....	....	....	94 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Flour	....	....	....	60 lbs.
Bread	....	....	....	300 lbs.
Chocolate	....	....	....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Marmalade	....	....	....	21 lbs.
Baking Powder	....	....	....	18 cwts.
Cereals	....	....	....	29 pkts.
Jam	....	....	....	2 jars

FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

The bakehouses, cafes, fried fish shops, canteens and other premises in which food is prepared, stored or sold are regularly inspected and efforts are continuously made to improve the standard of cleanliness. Regular supervision prevents any possibility of premises becoming really unsatisfactory although occasional warnings need to be given.

FOOD SAMPLING.

Thirty-two informal food samples were purchased and submitted to the County Analyst. They included twelve milk samples all of which were satisfactory, the lowest fat percentage being 3.3% and the highest 4.2%. The solids-not-fat percentages ranged from 8.6% to 8.9%. Other foods sampled included vinegar, gelatine, and sage and onion stuffing.

By arrangement with Worcester County Council, the Sanitary Inspectors are authorised to act as Sampling Officers for the County Council within the Borough of Halesowen, to obtain or purchase samples of food and drugs under the Food and Drugs Act 1938, the Food Standards Orders and the Labelling of Food Order and any other Orders made under the Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations 1943, and to appear on behalf of the County Council in any Court or legal proceedings.

Under the arrangement a limited number of samples are examined free of charge at the County Laboratory, Worcester, provided that,

- (1) the samples are taken and submitted to the laboratory by the local authority's own officer;
- (2) the annual number of samples does not exceed three per 1,000 of the population, samples in excess of this number being charged at the usual rate of seven shillings and sixpence;
- (3) the officer or officers nominated by each district to take such samples being, for this purpose, appointed Sampling Officers of the County Council under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Any sampling under this arrangement is independent of, and in addition to, sampling which may be made in the area by the Sampling Officer of the County Council.

ICE-CREAM.

The following registrations were in force in respect of ice-cream:—

Registration for manufacture, storage and sale	15
Registration for sale only	14

All the manufacturers are on a small scale and with three exceptions use the complete cold mix method. They all carry on the work as an ancillary to some other business, normally the sale of sweets and confectionery.

Considerable time is spent on advisory work and care is taken to emphasise that the public health aim is synonymous with that of the careful manufacturer, namely to produce a safe, clean, product. Much of the potential danger involved in making ice-cream can be obviated if the person making the product understands the necessity for the observance of the basic rules of hygiene, and if he or she will adopt and adhere to a simple mode of procedure.

The extent of co-operation by the traders has been good, and in general they comply with the following advice:—

- (1) Provision of a separate room, or portion of a room partitioned off, for mixing, cleansing and sterilising of equipment and storage of powder.
- (2) Provision of a sink with hot and cold water, soap and towels.
- (3) Provision of simple means of sterilisation usually by means of a gas or electric boiler.

- (4) Prohibition of any work in the room not connected with the manufacture of ice-cream.
- (5) Provision of a duplicate set of serving equipment so that whilst one set is in use the other can be cleaned and sterilised.

Traders are told quite frankly that some of the Department's suggestions have no precise statutory authority, but they are encouraged to regard general legal conditions as a broad basis for the conduct of their business, and not as an imposition to be accepted grudgingly and observed to the letter only.

Although there is no legal chemical standard for ice-cream, it is a matter for comment that of nine samples examined for fat content, six had less than 1% fat, one had 1%, one 1.8%, and the other 3.2%. There is no excuse for the sale of such poor quality products and it is considered that in the absence of legal standard, or indeed as complementary to such a standard the trade itself ought to impose on its members a reasonable chemical standard below which a product described as "ice-cream" ought not to fall.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The public cleansing service maintained by the Public Health Department covers the collection and disposal of domestic and trade refuse, and the collection and disposal of salvage.

Street cleansing and gritting, gully emptying and snow removal are done by the Highways Department.

Two sites are available for tipping, but for several reasons only one tip was used during 1947. This tip is situated off the Stourbridge Road. An area of land some 9.5 acres in extent and forming a valley is being developed by tipping to provide a playing area. The tipping is carefully controlled and as the work proceeds, all refuse is covered with earth, ashes or moulding sand. Exposed faces of the tip are covered each evening and during week-ends with heavy tarpaulin sheets.

The tips have been comparatively free from rats but some trouble has been experienced on one of the tips from crickets. Treatment by dusting with insecticide is regularly carried out during spring and summer.

During the early months of 1947 the work of public cleansing was severely handicapped by the weather and it was impossible to maintain a regular collection of refuse. The arrears of work which accumulated took some time to clear and the situation was

made more difficult because of the impossibility of securing an adequate number of suitable men. This difficulty persisted throughout the year and reached a peak in December, when there were not enough men to form sufficient teams to utilise the vehicles available.

It is appreciated that all types of labour are in short supply but in the Midlands the situation so far as refuse collection is concerned, is complicated by reason of the fact that local authorities must compete for such labour as is available, with large industrial concerns. Since the latter usually offer more attractive conditions, it is becomingly increasingly difficult both to attract young, intelligent men, or to keep the best of those already employed.

In an attempt to make the work more congenial the Council continued to improve working conditions by the provision of protective clothing which included boiler suits, oilskins and industrial gloves.

A proportion of the workmen who would be available for refuse collection and disposal are engaged in the collection and disposal of salvageable materials. Although there is a popular demand for the collection of domestic refuse at weekly intervals, under present circumstances this is difficult to achieve and maintain for the reasons already mentioned, and because the amount of refuse varies considerably throughout the year. It is therefore very necessary for householders to co-operate with the Council by placing all kitchen waste in the specially provided receptacles. By doing this they at once perform a valuable salvage service and reduce to negligible proportions any possible nuisance from the dustbin.

The scheme for the provision of a standard type dustbin at cost price plus a small administrative charge is still available, and owners of property are informed of the service whenever a complaint is received of a defective dustbin..

SALVAGE RECOVERY.

The need to recover waste materials and to return them to industry is now greater even than during the war years, and this salient fact is repeatedly stressed. There can be no doubt that a great deal of valuable salvage is being rendered unavailable, and there is scope for still more effort. It is pleasing to record that for the year 1st April, 1947, to 31st March, 1948, there was an increased income from salvage of approximately £316. This increase would have been greater had it not been for the temporary suspension of much of the work in the early months of the year.

With the advent of potato rationing the kitchen waste collection immediately declined and to offset this an experiment was

initiated by supplying groups of householders with individual small capacity containers. This scheme will, it is hoped, be developed but like all salvage schemes it is absolutely dependent on the provision of a regular and systematic collection service. This in its turn, depends on having sufficient men available, and the latter factor has slowed down its extension.

Improved costing and administration helped to cut out avoidable loss, and improve the income from salvage.

It is difficult to assess to what extent salvage income is profit producing because it must always be realised that a large amount of the salvage which is recovered and sold, would in any event have to be collected and disposed of as household refuse at a comparatively high cost. In addition the tip would be more difficult to control and would be used up more quickly. When such factors as this are kept in mind it will be appreciated that the salvage of materials results in substantial local as well as national advantages.

MAINTENANCE OF TRANSPORT.

The Public Health Department maintains and repairs all Corporation transport. A gradual policy of standardisation will be developed and as far as possible a stock of essential spares is kept available. Substantial economies have been effected by purchasing materials and equipment from large factors prepared to offer trade discounts. The workshops are equipped to deal with most repairs and the result has been a considerable saving in time when vehicles break down.

Statistics relating to the collection and disposal of refuse and the collection of salvage are shown in the Tables III., IV. and V. (See pages 36 and 37.)

RODENT CONTROL.

A maintenance treatment was carried out on the sewers in August, 1947. A total of 152 manholes were baited in areas known to have been previously infested, and 57 showed evidence of poison bait takes.

Prolonged treatments have completely eliminated the few heavy infestations in the Borough and there is now a comparative freedom from rats. Minor infestations are encountered and are often the most difficult with which to deal since they are almost invariably associated with badly constructed fowl houses. If the domestic poultry keeper would build his poultry house so that it were raised 12in. or so above the ground, and so that access could be obtained all round the house, there would be little trouble from rat infestation.

OTHER VERMIN.

Bug infestations are only occasionally met with and are dealt with by spraying with proprietary insecticides incorporating "D.D.T." or "Gammexane."

Some Council houses in certain areas have been heavily infested with cockroaches for several years, but the infestations have been substantially reduced by using insecticide powders. With the full co-operation of the tenants it is hoped to effect a complete clearance.

CONTROL OF FLIES.

During the spring and summer special efforts were undertaken to kill flies and to prevent them breeding. Refuse tips are regularly dusted with an insecticide and strict control is carried out. Whenever freshly tipped refuse cannot be covered immediately with sand, ashes or earth, e.g., the last loads each night, it is carefully covered with tarpaulin sheets to prevent nuisance and restrict opportunities for the feeding of flies.

Kitchen waste containers are regularly emptied and are frequently scrubbed both inside and out, and sterilised. In addition, before being returned to the streets, the outsides of the bins are wiped with a solution of "D.D.T." in kerosene.

At cafes, canteens and food premises generally, Inspectors paid special attention to the reduction in the possibilities of contamination of food by flies.

In outlying, unsewered parts of the Borough a scheme was pursued to eliminate all privies and to secure the provision of chemical closets and dustbins.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Towards the end of 1946 it was discovered that pollution of the River Stour was taking place due to the discharge of waste water from a coal washing plant. The problem was finally dealt with by improved methods at the colliery, and there has been no recurrence of the trouble.

At another point along the river it was observed that contaminated effluent from a gas works was being discharged. The gas works is in an adjoining Borough and the matter was reported to the appropriate authority.

There is still much avoidable pollution of the River Stour but staff difficulties preclude more than a cursory examination of the problem.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Inspections of shops were only carried out during the course of visits for other purposes. There is a need for a complete re-inspection of all shop premises in the Borough. No special inspections were made of office accommodation.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

A small number of observations were made at premises from which trouble from smoke emission was experienced. In most cases the cause of the excessive smoke emission was faulty or careless stoking, or badly maintained plant. A considerable improvement in individual cases resulted from the advisory work performed by the District Inspectors. A complaint of grit emission from two blast furnaces was partially remedied by the fitting of grit arresters, but the plant is still under observation.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from a few houses in the rural parts of the Borough most dwellings are connected to the sewer.

The only unusual feature in the general work in connection with drainage problems was a case which involved the discharge of oil from a factory on to an unmade road. This oil subsequently found its way into a street gulley. Oil traps were devised and fitted in the factory, and the trouble was eliminated.

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

The provisions relating to the means of escape in case of fire were reviewed during the year and twelve certificates were issued. At a number of factories modifications were found necessary, and works to carry these out before issue of the appropriate certificates were in hand at the end of the year.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928.

During 1947 there were 81 licences issued for the storage of petroleum spirit and six licences for the storage of calcium carbide.

INSPECTIONS.

The following table indicates the number of visits made during the year:—

TABLE II.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:—

Cinemas, Theatres, etc.	3
Drainage, public sewers	15
drains	241
sanitary accommodation	10
Infectious Disease	39
tuberculosis	88
Nuisances (Section 93)—	
premises	977
keeping of animals	117
dust or effluvia	17
Offensive trades	14
Public Conveniences	6
Refreshment houses	12
Refuse—ashbins	113
salvage	25
trade refuse	26
tips	128
Smoke nuisances—	
observations	24
visits to plant	15
Tents, vans, sheds	6
Verminous premises—	
council houses	180
other houses	34
Watercourse, streams	22
Water supply	40
Workplaces	8
LAND CHARGES	10
PETROLEUM ACTS	10
RODENT CONTROL	324
RENT ACT CERTIFICATES	30
FACTORIES—	
with power	161
without power	25
outworkers	16

HOUSING ACTS:—

Number of houses inspected and recorded	12
Houses let in lodgings	14
Overcrowding	15
Re-conditioning	—
Individual unfit	41
Clearance areas	—

COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS	1,482
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FOOD INSPECTION:—

Butchers' shops	36
Bakehouses	42
Cowsheds	20
Cafes, canteens, etc.	23
Dairies, milkshops	....	32
Fishmongers, poulterers	....	15
Fried fish shops	....	18
Food preparing premises	....	26
Greengrocers, fruiterers	....	1
Grocers	....	31
Ice-cream premises	....	79
Markets	....	12
Street vendors	....	2
Slaughterhouses	....	3
Other food premises	....	5
Pasteurising plants	....	12
Pigs inspected on private premises	....	280

FOOD SAMPLING (Number of samples)—

Milk—bacteriological	....	43
Milk—tuberculosis	....	3
Milk—chemical	....	12
Bottles—bacteriological	....	47
Other foods and drugs	20
Water	3
Ice-cream—chemical	5
bacteriological	4

MISCELLANEOUS	374
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TOTAL	5,448
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GENERAL COMMENT.

In spite of all that is accomplished by the Department much more remains to be done. Some matters can be dealt with only at infrequent intervals. As examples, are quoted work on atmospheric pollution, the pollution of rivers and streams, sampling of food, routine inspection of dwelling houses and inspection of shops and offices. In the case of some of these matters there is a great deal of advisory work to be done and it is only by regular and frequent visits that results can be consolidated.

It is not often realised by the general public that the scope of the Public Health Department in a Borough such as Halesowen

is extensive. The following major functions are carried out:—

- (1) Inspection of house property.
- (2) Advisory, medical, and technical work in connection with infectious diseases.
- (3) Inspection of living conditions of applicants for Council houses where they live in privately owned property.
- (4) Inspection of all food preparation premises, dairies and farms.
- (5) Inspection and sampling of food, water and drugs.
- (6) Remedying of nuisances, usually associated with repairs to houses.
- (7) Control of rats, mice and other vermin.
- (8) Action in connection with atmospheric pollution.
- (9) Inspection of rivers and streams.
- (10) Inspection of factories, workplaces and shops.
- (11) Inspections under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928.
- (12) Collection and disposal of refuse and salvage.
- (13) Control of the Ambulance Service.
- (14) Maintenance and repair of Corporation transport.

To carry out such multifarious duties efficiently, to report on the Department's work each month to the Public Health Committee, and annually to the Ministry of Health, requires adequate trained staff, both technical and clerical, and necessitates careful planning and organisation.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

To help the public in an intelligent understanding of this report, the following notes are submitted:—

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

“Public Cleansing” is an embracing term used to describe activities which include, for example, the removal of household and trade refuse and its disposal, the cleansing of streets, the emptying of road gulleys and the removal of snow.

In Halesowen the Public Health Department is responsible for the removal and disposal of refuse and combines with this service the recovery of materials which have a salvage value. Refuse is removed in modern, specially designed vehicles, each manned by a team of four men. The vehicles hold about 1 ton 15 cwts. to 2 tons of refuse. A trailer is attached to each vehicle and is used for the collection of salvage. Four teams operate in the Borough and remove the refuse from some 11,300 houses.

The refuse is tipped on land adjoining Stourbridge Road and is carefully deposited in layers about 6ft. deep and 18ft. wide at the top. As each load is tipped it is raked down, tins and bottles are salvaged, and the refuse is neatly consolidated. It is then covered with fine ashes, earth or waste moulding sand. This seal prevents any possibility of nuisance arising and helps to produce the conditions favourable for the breaking down of the vegetable and other matter in the tip. In this systematic way an area of land is being reclaimed which will eventually become a fine recreation ground.

Associated with the refuse collection service is the recovery of paper, rags, metals, kitchen waste, etc. It will be seen from the statistics that in 1947, 415 tons of materials, most of which would have been put into the dustbins and would have cost money to dispose of, have been returned to industry or turned into animal food.

The total average income from this thriving and valuable communal business was in the region of £44 each week. A total of 29 men are engaged on the collection and disposal of refuse, and the recovery of salvage.

FOOD PREPARATION.

During preparation some types of food are liable to become contaminated with harmful organisms. A very high standard of cleanliness is insisted upon in places where any food is prepared or handled. Even so it is necessary to have the co-operation of the persons actually doing the work to ensure that they understand the reasons for the strictest personal cleanliness.

MILK.

Milk may either be sold loose or in bottles. The serious objections to the sale of loose milk are obvious. Milk sold in bottles may be "raw," i.e., not treated in any way other than by being cooled, or it may be described by one of several designations. The following are brief particulars of these designations:—

(1) **" Pasteurised " Milk.**

Milk treated (to a fixed range of temperatures below boiling point), and subsequently cooled under carefully controlled conditions. The treatment ensures the destruction of any organisms which might be present in the milk and which might give rise to disease in man. These organisms include those responsible for tuberculosis, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever and so on. A second advantage is that the milk so treated will keep longer.

(2) **" Tuberculin Tested " Milk.**

Raw milk from cows which are periodically tested and found to be free from tuberculosis and certain other diseases. " Tuberculin Tested " milk may also be pasteurised in addition, and is then described as " Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)."

(3) **" Accredited " Milk.**

Milk from cows which are periodically examined (but not tuberculin-tested) and appear to be free from tuberculosis and certain other diseases.

These " designated " milks are sold to the public in sealed bottles marked with the appropriate designation. **" Sterilised Milk "** is not a designation but a descriptive term to denote that the milk has been heated to a high temperature and rendered free from all organisms. The process results in significant changes in the milk and affects its food value.

THE QUALITY OF MILK.

There is a legal standard below which milk must not normally fall. This standard is that milk shall contain not less than 3.0% butter fat and 8.5% solids other than butter fat.

ICE-CREAM.

Ice-cream is a substance which varies considerably in the way in which it is made, and in what it contains. Before the late war it was often made with milk and thus contained butter fat, and although the present day product may contain varying amounts of fat, it is not butter fat, i.e., the fat derived from milk. Because of the shortage of raw materials the Minister of Food has decided not to lay down any legal standard of quality for ice-cream.

Most of the ice-cream made by small manufacturers is made by adding water to a " cold-mix " powder (a form of dehydrated ice-cream mix), mixing, and freezing.

Ice-cream may only be made or sold on premises which are inspected and satisfy the requirements of the Public Health Department.

RODENT CONTROL.

Rodent control means the destruction of rats and mice. The work involves the careful examination of property and the destructions by special methods of rats living in infested sewers and those living in property, usually factories, warehouses and shops. The work, to be successful, must be done according to a plan and by well tried modern methods mainly involving the use of poisonous baits. The service is available to all inhabitants and in the case of dwelling houses is free.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The discharge of smoke, dust, grit, etc., into the air constitutes atmospheric pollution. Much of it is preventible and avoidable, and advice is available as to how it best can be dealt with.

RENT AND MORTGAGE (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS 1920-1939.

The Rent Restrictions Acts contain certain provisions relating amongst other things to permitted increases in rent on account of the execution of repairs and improvements, and the issue of sanitary certificates by the Local Council. Briefly, the Acts enable a tenant of certain types of houses to withhold payment of a proportion of the rent provided that he serves on the landlord the certificate of the Sanitary Authority. The Council are bound to issue a certificate if they are satisfied that the house is not in a reasonable state of repair.

TABLE II.
PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE—HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE.

Table showing cost for the year ended 31st March, 1947.

PARTICULARS.	I. Collection with Depreciation on Loan Charges included or excluded.		II. Disposal with Depreciation on Loan Charges included or excluded.		III. Total with Depreciation on Loan Charges included or excluded.	
	Included. (3)	Excluded. (4)	Included. (5)	Excluded. (6)	Included. (7)	Excluded. (8)
REVENUE ACCOUNT						
A. Gross Expenditure	£6,396	£5,941	£1,192	£1,167	£7,588	£7,108
B. Gross Income	£12	£12	£19	£19	£31	£31
C. Net Cost	£6,384	£5,929	£1,173	£1,158	£7,557	£7,077
UNIT COSTS						
D. Gross Expenditure per ton	s. d. 17 10	s. d. 16 7	s. d. 3 4	s. d. 3 2	£ s. d. 1 1 2	s. d. 19 9
E. Gross Income per ton	1	1	1	1	2	2
F. Net cost per ton	17 9	16 6	3 3	3 1	1 1 0	19 7
G. Net cost per 1000 population	£164 10 9	£152 16 2	£30 0 3	£29 17 5	£194 11 0	£182 13 7
H. Net cost per 1000 houses on premises from which refuse is collected	£545 12 10	£506 15 0	£100 5 1	£98 19 5	£645 17 11	£605 14 5

COST OF COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Net Cost of Collection and Disposal of Refuse for each house per week 3d., per year 12/11d.
 Net Cost of Collection and Disposal of Refuse for each resident per week 3½d., per year 3/10½d.

COMPARATIVE SALVAGE STATISTICS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1946 and 1947.

**TABLE III.
TONNAGE.**

Year.	Kitchen Waste.	Paper.	Scrap Metal.	Baled Tins.	Bones.	Rags.	Sacking and String.	Bottles.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL TONNAGE.
	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.		T. C. Qrs.	T. C. Qrs.
1946	150 3 2	150 10 2	17 17 0	50 7 1	1 9 1	6 0 1	2 11 3	183 doz.	2 1½	379 1 3½
1947	133 18 2	187 13 3	26 7 3	57 16 3	1 3 1½	7 9 3	17 2	248½ doz.		415 7 1½
Increase		37 3 1	8 10 3	6 9 2		1 9 2		65½ doz.		36 5 2

**TABLE IV.
INCOME.**

Year.	Kitchen Waste.	Paper.	Scrap Metal.	Baled Tins.	Bones.	Rags.	Sacking and String.	Bottles.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL TONNAGE.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1946	481 15 1	1021 15 7	80 19 1	102 4 9	7 16 6	132 5 6	10 5 6	15 7 3	5 4	1852 14 7
1947	524 10 3	1207 7 10	79 10 11	112 15 8	6 7 0	190 16 9	4 7 6	19 11 6	2 5 0	2147 12 5
Increase	45 15 2	185 12 3		10 10 11		58 11 3		4 4 3	1 19 8	294 17 10

N.B. To the 1946 income of £1021 15s. 7d. for paper must be added a bonus of £45 3s. 0d. received from the Board of Trade in respect of increased collections.

To the 1947 income of £1207 7s. 10d. for paper must be added a bonus of £66 15s. 0d. received from the Board of Trade in respect of increased collections.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

During 1946 a survey was started of all factories in the Borough. This was completed in 1947. During this course of the survey many minor contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, were observed and most were remedied during 1946. Details of the work carried out in 1947 are set out below:—

Premises.	Number on Register. (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted. (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	25	1	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938	181	161	8	-
(b) Other ...	,	-	-	-
(3) Other Premises under the Act (Excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	195	186	9	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	4	6	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	13	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	19	-	2	-

